Technical Note No. 6
Management - Coastal Plain

Asheville, N. C.
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APPALACHIAN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

A Suggestion for Cleaning Loblolly Pine Seed.

After seed has been extracted and the wings broken off, the mass of uncleaned seed can be placed in a large container and subjected to a forcible stream of water. All foreign material, which otherwise would be removed by fanning, will float. This floating material should be skimmed off immediately. If it is allowed to stand, some of the full seeds will also float because air bubbles from the water become attached to them, buoying them to the surface.

After the dross has been skimmed off, the contents of the container can be dumped on a drainage frame, the bottom of which should be fine mesh wire (door screening will do). It is desirable to have the bottom of this frame V shaped so that the seeds will collect at the bottom from which they can be easily removed.

If the seed is to be stored or shipped dry, it must be dried in the sun, or in a kiln with temperatures not higher than 150°F. in order to prevent moulding. Seed to be stratified in moist media can be put in stratification boxes immediately without drying.

By this method practically pure, clean seed is obtained at a low cost of cleaning. It should be noted that approximately 2 to 4% of the full seeds also float and are lost, but this loss is more than fully compensated by the reduction in the cost of cleaning and the purity of the seed obtained.